


Policies and Procedures Assisted Living Communities	
Policy Title: In-Person Visitation for Essential Caregivers	
Policy Number:	Effective Date: 5/06/2022
Regulatory Reference: FS 408.823	Revision Date: 6/1/2023
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POLICY: At times there may be circumstances which restrict Resident visitation, such as pandemic flu or presence of infectious diseases that may require isolation. Florida Statute 408.823, the "No Patient Left Alone Act" requires SOMERSET HOUSE to implement a policy that allows a Resident to have in-person visits by an Essential Caregiver during these circumstances. The visitation policies and procedures required must allow in-person visitation by Essential Caregivers in all the following circumstances, unless the resident, client, or patient objects:

1. End-of-life situations.
 2. A resident, client, or patient who was living with family before being admitted to the provider's care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
 3. The resident, client, or patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
 4. A resident, client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
 5. A resident, client, or patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
 6. A resident, client, or patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
- SOMERSET HOUSE requires the following procedures to comply with the statute.

PROCEDURES: Before in-person visitation, all Essential Caregivers must adhere to the following procedures:

1. Sign in upon entering the facility and before interacting with any staff, residents, family members or friends.
2. Comply with the Infection control and education policies for visitors. Infection Control policies may require a visitor to wear Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) including properly wearing a face mask and other necessary PPE and perform hand hygiene. Staff will provide directions on the proper use of PPE.
3. The Visitor shall sign this policy acknowledging an understanding of visitation policies. Failure of visitors to adhere to the policy shall result in suspension of in-person visitation.

4. Submit to a Screening which may include temperatures and/or a questionnaire about health status. Visitors are NOT required to submit proof of vaccination or immunization.
5. Visitation hours will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. as per FS 429.28 (1)(d). Any visitation outside of those hours will be considered upon request to the Administrator. During these hours, in-person visitation by the essential caregiver is allowed for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the provider.
6. While minimizing physical contact and social distancing may be encouraged to limit exposure, consensual physical contact between a resident, client, or patient and the visitor is NOT prohibited.
7. A resident, client, or patient may designate at least two visitors, who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. Additional visitors may be allowed upon request and approval of the Administrator.
8. This section does not require an essential caregiver to provide necessary care to a resident, client, or patient of a provider, and providers may not require an essential caregiver to provide such care.

PROCEDURES: SOMERSET HOUSE in-house procedures include:

1. All current residents shall be provided with a copy of the new policy. The Administrator or Designee shall discuss the policy during the resident monthly meeting.
2. Upon admission to **SOMERSET HOUSE** the resident or legal representative shall complete the acknowledgement of the policy and shall sign and date the form. A copy of the executed form shall be placed in the resident business file and shall be subject to review upon request.
3. The form and policy shall be incorporated into the Resident Handbook and house rules for visitation.
4. Staff training on this subject shall be included in the Inservice training for Resident Rights and Emergency Procedures.
5. All Essential caregivers shall sign-in to a log sheet understanding that by signing in they agree to follow the visitation policies of **SOMERSET HOUSE**.
6. The Administrator shall be responsible for ensuring staff adherence to visitation policies and procedures.